

WILL THERE BE A STEEL STRIKE?

**Not if the CIO abides by its
pledged word, given only last spring.**

Question: What would be the general effect on the country of a steel strike?

Answer: Over 40 per cent of all the factory workers in the country earn their living by making steel into useful products for American life. A shut-down of the steel industry would be a disastrous blow to reconversion and would cause a serious loss in both wages and industrial production at a time when they were most needed.

Question: Is it true that the Steelworkers Union has pledged itself not to strike?

Answer: Yes. Every contract which the Union has signed this year with the various steel companies has a clause wherein the Union agrees not to strike during the life of the contract.

Question: Are those contracts still in effect?

Answer: Yes. They were signed in the spring of 1945 to run until October, 1946.

Question: Who signed for the Union?

Answer: Its international officials—Philip Murray, Van Bittner, Clinton Golden and others—and the local Union heads at the various plants.

Question: Is there no "escape clause" by which either side could end the agreements?

Answer: No. The Union demanded a fixed, long-term contract and got it.

Question: Why did they want a long-term contract?

Answer: In the Union's own words before the War Labor Board, "The Union's request for a termination date of October,

1946, is not made capriciously or pressed here for bargaining purposes. It represents the considered view of the Union that only such a term will adequately serve the needs of stability."

Question: Did the recent strike vote violate the contracts?

Answer: No. Only an actual strike would violate them.

Question: Haven't there been strikes already during the life of the contracts?

Answer: Yes. There were 998 strikes in steel plants during the past year alone. They were mostly local strikes which the Union characterizes as "wildcat," but they meant a big loss in production.

Question: Does the end of the war justify changing the contracts?

Answer: No. The bond was sealed on both sides and should be kept whether times be good or bad. The steel companies are continuing to live up to these agreements. If a strike is called, it will be in clear violation of the existing contracts.

A strike in the face of existing contracts would shatter any confidence in the validity of union agreements in the steel industry.

American Iron and Steel Institute

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OUR COMPANY MEMBERS EMPLOY 95 PER CENT OF THE WORKERS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY.